manufacturing sector which registered a significant increase during this period.

(e) There are no measures to restrict imports or artificially balance trade that may led to dampening of the growth of the economy or lead to resurgence of inflationary pressures. However, export promotion is a constant endeavor of the Government and a Foreign Trade Policy was announced on 31st August, 2004 with the objective of doubling India's overall share of global merchandise trade within the next five years.

Opening of Auction Centres of Tobacco Board

176. SHRI V. HANUMATHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is demand to open more auction centres of the Tobacco Board in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the steps proposed to ensure that all tobacco farmers get their tobacco easily to the auction centres;

(c) whether the Tobacco Board will give any transport subsidy to farmers for bringing their tobacco to the auction centres;

(d) the steps proposed to increase such facilities for the tobacco farmers; and

(e) the measures proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Tobacco Board is implementing cluster approach by rotation to ensure that all growers get equal opportunity to sell their tobacco.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Impact of Tsunami on Marine Exports

177. SHRI V. HANUMATHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of Tsunami on marine product exports from the country in 2004-05;

(b) whether the MPEDA has submitted an interim report on the expected fall in exports of marine products in this fiscal year;

(c) what steps are proposed to boost exports for the remaining part of this fiscal year; and

(d) the details of incentives MPEDA propose to give to exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has furnished some preliminary information to the Government giving the likely fall in exports as the result of the Tsunami. It has been reported that the Tsunami has caused extensive damages to the infrastructure for fishing such as boats, nets and landing jetties, which is likely to affect the landing of fish and exports as well.

(c) and (d) Government has been taking necessary steps to build up infrastructure facilities. Further, the Government through MPEDA has been implementing a number of schemes to boost the exports of marine products. These scheme include schemes for extending financial assistance to the seafood processing industry; steps to upgrade processing facilities to meet international standards of hygiene and quality; expansion of aquaculture; imparting training to aquaculture farmers to adopt sound management practices to prevent outbreak of diseases; assistance to produce value-added products for export; marketing support; etc.

Views of EU Trade Commissioner on Domestic Market

†178. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY and pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Trade Commissioner of European Union during his recent visit to India has asked India to open its domestic market more;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) by when a final decision will be taken in this regard?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.